

REMARKS

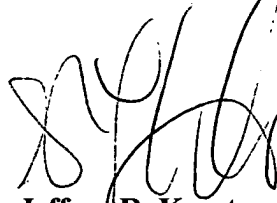
Upon entry of this Supplemental Amendment, continuation-in-part priority is now claimed to U.S. Pat. No. 5,764,747, and claims 1-18, 22-26, and 28-71 are now pending in the present application. Consideration and allowance of the present application and pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Upon addition of new claims 33-71, the present inventorship is also being amended to add Yue, Smets, Moquin, Kraus, Durand, and Berke in a petition filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.48(c). In addition, Applicants have also included therein a petition under 37 C.F.R. § 1.182 to make the amendments to inventorship, cross-reference, and claims effective to the filing date of June 16, 1997. In other words, despite the filing of continued prosecution applications (CPAs) on July 19, 2000, and on February 6, 2002, continuity is maintained through granting of the petition 37 C.F.R. § 1.182. Authority for amending earlier applications is provided in *Sampson v. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks*, 195 U.S.P.Q. 136 (D.D.C., 1976). Thus, granting of the petition and entering this Supplemental Amendment will render the present application a continuation-in-part with priority to U.S. Pat. No. 5,764,747.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that the now pending claims 1-18, 22-26, and 28-71 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned agent at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JKuester', is written over a horizontal line.

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